Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   Cancelled.

2.   Cancelled.

3.   Cancelled.

4.   Cancelled.

5.   Cancelled.

6.   (Currently Amended) A method of electronically transacting ~~the~~ purchase <u>and</u> <u>redemption</u> of ~~a~~ <u>at least one tangible</u> commodity which comprises:

a)   providing an electronic system for purchasing <u>tangible</u> commodities over a communication network and which system includes a computer database containing commodity information concerning at least one product ~~or service~~ which may be purchased at a current time purchase price, and which purchase price is locked-in at time of purchase, for at least partial consumption or use at a future date;

<u>b) establishing an account for the purchaser;</u>

<u>c) establishing an account balance for each commodity;</u>

<u>d</u>~~b~~)   ~~electronically pre-registering a purchaser including obtaining credit approval for deferred payment and providing the purchaser with a unique secure access code and~~ authorizing the purchaser to purchase a quantity of <u>at least one tangible</u> commodity from the electronic system ~~and~~;

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~~ee~~) electronically accessing the electronic system~~;~~ ~~by said purchaser and, upon~~

~~verification of said purchaser's unique secure access code, said~~

f) ~~purchaser selecting and~~ purchasing from said computer database a first purchase

quantity of a selected tangible commodity at the current time purchase price reflected in said

computer database for redemption of at least a portion of the first purchase quantity of the

selected commodity ~~purchased~~ at a future date at the locked-in purchase price~~;~~ ~~to thereby ensure~~

~~that the quantity of commodity purchased is not subject to future market price fluctuations~~

e) ~~and creating~~ summing the first purchase quantity with the account balance to provide a

current account balance ~~a quantity credit account~~ in said account for the purchaser in the

computer database for the selected commodity ~~purchased~~;

f~~d~~) storing data in said computer database for the ~~quantity~~ current account balance ~~credit~~

~~account~~ in an electronically accessible format; ~~and~~

g~~e~~) ~~subsequently, at a point of redemption,~~ electronically accessing said computer

database and ~~by said purchaser and entering said unique secure access code and thereafter~~

redeeming at least a portion of the current account balance ~~quantity~~ of the selected commodity~~;~~

and

h) ~~previously purchased and~~ adjusting the current account balance ~~quantity credit~~

~~account~~ to reflect the redeemed portion of the ~~quantity of~~ selected commodity ~~purchased that has~~

~~been redeemed, wherein said purchaser is able to purchase a selected quantity of at least one~~

~~commodity by selecting and purchasing a quantity of a commodity in one of a plurality of~~

~~different geographical price zones as identified within said computer database; and wherein said~~

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~~purchaser is able to purchase a selected quantity of at least one commodity includes said~~

~~purchaser being able to convert quantities of commodity purchased between said plurality of~~

~~different geographical price zones~~.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein at least a portion of the current account balance ~~quantity~~ of the selected commodity ~~purchased~~ is electronically transferred in the computer database by the purchaser in order to be redeemed by another entity.

8.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the step of accessing and redeeming is performed at a plurality of locations.

9.   Cancelled.

10.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the purchasing and redeeming steps are performed over a computer network.

11.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 6 wherein at least one commodity is a brand name commodity and the purchasing and redeeming steps are effected with the same brand name of the commodity.

12.   Cancelled.

13.   Cancelled.

14.   Cancelled.

15.   Cancelled.

16.   Cancelled.

17.   Cancelled.

18.   Cancelled.

19.   Cancelled.

20.   Cancelled.

21.   Cancelled.

22.   Cancelled.

23.   Cancelled.

24.   Cancelled.

25.   Cancelled.

26.   (New) The method of claim 6 further including the steps of:

i) purchasing from said computer database a subsequent purchase quantity of the selected commodity at a subsequent current time purchase price, the subsequent current time purchase being a subsequent locked-in price, reflected in said computer database for redemption of at least a portion of the subsequent purchase quantity of the selected commodity at a subsequent future date at the subsequent locked-in current time purchase price; and

j) summing the second purchase quantity with the current account balance to provide a subsequent current account balance in said account for the purchaser in the computer database for the selected commodity.

27.   (New) A method of maintaining an account for purchase of at least one tangible commodity at a market price current at time of purchase and for delivery on-demand of the at least one tangible commodity regardless of market price current at time of delivery, the method including the steps of:

establishing an account in an electronic system for an individual user;

establishing a current balance for each commodity in the account;

accessing the account by the user;

transacting with the electronic system for delivery of a selected tangible commodity, delivery being available on-demand at a plurality of specific locations;

adjusting the current balance for the selected commodity in response to the transacting.

28.   The method of claim 27 wherein the step of transacting includes at least one of purchasing a purchase quantity of the selected commodity at a current market price to lock-in the market price for subsequent delivery and redemption, and redeeming a redeemed quantity of the selected commodity at a subsequent date, the redeemed quantity being at least a portion of the current balance.

29.   (New) The method of claim 27 wherein the step of adjusting the current balance includes, if purchasing a purchase quantity, summing the purchased quantity with the account balance, and, if redeeming at least a portion of the purchase quantity, subtracting the redeemed quantity from the current balance.

30.   (New) A method of providing an account for the purchase and redemption of a bulk tangible commodity, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an account for a user on an electronic network;

providing a single bulk quantity account balance for each commodity available on the electronic network;

accessing the account by the user for at least one purchase of at least one selected commodity, each purchase being a discrete quantity of the selected commodity;

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accessing the account by the user for at least one redemption of the selected commodity,

each redemption being a discrete quantity of the selected commodity;

adjusting the single bulk quantity account balance for the selected commodity by adding

each purchase to the single bulk quantity account balance and by subtracting each redemption

from the single bulk quantity account balance; and

storing the adjusted single bulk quantity account balance in the electronic network.